T provided that the quantity of added sugar shall be declared on the container/ bottle and if no sugar is added that also shall be declared on the container/ bottle as laid down in sub-clause (1) and (12) of sub-rule *(777)* of rule-42, In case of returnable bottles, which are recycled or refilling the declaration of quantity of added sugar and no sugar added may be given on the crown.

Provided also that the declaration of no sugar added shall not be applicable for carbonated water (plain soda).

Provided also that the products which contain aspartame, acesulfame K or any other artificial sweetener for which special labeling provisions have been provided under rules 42, 47 or any other under PFA Rules, 1955, shall not be packed, stored, distributed or sold in returnable containers."

4[lt shall conform to the following requirements, namely:—

(1) Total plate count per ml..... not more than ..50

(2) Coliform count in 100 ml.....0

(3) Yeast and mould count per ml .....not more than 2"

Parameters for giving licenses to medicines which are being advertised through media

†2056. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that big advertisements of various costly medicines to treat the serious diseases like T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer, etc. being published in the newspaper, journals and telecast on TV. channels everyday are alluring the patients;

(b) whether all such medicines being advertised are approved and licensed by Government and are fully safe for the health of patients; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, what are the parameters for selling these medicines after getting approval therefore and for issuing license for their production and the authority which fixes the arbitrary prices of the said medicines alongwith the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) The advertisements published in the press mainly relate to the cure of diseases by certain persons, but not to specific drugs or medicines. However, certain advertisements do appear in electronic media relating to drugs for treatment. The Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisement) Act, 1954 which prohibits advertisements of drugs for certain specified diseases and conditions at present does not cover advertisement for "treatment" or practitioners, or the electronic media.

(b) Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, lays down the requirements for safety, efficacy, manufacture and sale of drugs. The Act also specify procedures to be followed for licensing of drugs for manufacture and compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices to ensure quality and safety of the drugs for use.

(c) Sale of drugs also require valid licences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made there under. Drugs are sold by the chemists as prescription and non prescription drugs. Prescription drugs are required to be sold on the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner. Major drugs for treatment of T.B., diabetes, asthma, arthritis, blood pressure, cancer, etc, are prescription drugs. Prices of drugs are regulated by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

Free medicines to AIDS patients

†2057. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scheme to distribute AIDS drug free of cost to the affected persons was launched by the previous Government in the beginning of year 2004;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a target of one lakh patients for distribution of these medicines was fixed for that year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.